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 ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
 DHA-02 ACDA-07 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT  
 SECRETARY TODMAN FROM DERIAN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
 TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR  
 SUBJECT: DERIAN CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. U.S. COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PATRICIA DERIAN,  
 MET WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR 35 MINUTES  
 MORNING OF AUGUST 9. DIALOGUE WAS FRIENDLY AND COUCHED  
 IN GENERAL TERMS. VIDELA APPEARED NERVOUS.

2. MAIN POINTS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA WERE:  
 (1) THAT HE WELCOMED MRS. DERIAN'S VISIT AS DEMONSTRATION  
 OF HER DESIRE TO PERSONALLY UNDERSTAND ARGENTINA'S  
 PROBLEMS, (2) THAT ARGENTINA HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM THE  
 SITUATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS INHERITED BY  
 THE MILITARY, (3) THAT IS WAS THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S  
 GOAL TO OVERCOME THE THREAT OF SUBVERSION TO ARGENTINA'S

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TRADITIONAL VALUES OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIBERTY AND  
 (4) THAT THEY NEEDED MORE TIME. PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED THAT  
 THE ARMED FORCES HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AGAINST  
 SUBVERSION AND, WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME LEFTOVERS OF  
 TERRORISM AND ISOLATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, THE PEOPLE OF  
 ARGENTINA ARE MANIFESTING A SOCIAL DISCIPLINE WHICH SHOWS THEY  
 HAVE REJECTED THE MESSAGE OF THE SUBVERSIVES AND UNDERSTAND THE  
 OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE DROP IN  
 INFLATION AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. HE  
 SAID HE KNOW IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL  
 UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SITUATION AND THANKED MRS. DERIAN FOR  
 HER WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH HE  
 HAS BEEN CHARGED PERSONALLY, NOTING THAT HER WORDS HELP HIM TO  
 PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOOD DESTINY OF HIS COUNTRY. HE WELCOMED  
 MRS. DERIAN'S RETURN AT ANYTIME TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK OF  
 ENCOURAGING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

3. MRS. DERIAN (1) EXPLAINED HER DESIRE TO HAVE A DIRECT  
 UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARGENTINE SITUATION, (2) SAID THAT SHE  
 SAW A SHIFT IN ARGENTINA AWAY FROM THE STATE OF BEING  
 BELEAGUERED AND AT WAR WITH TERRORISTS, (3) WELCOMED THE  
 THINGS PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS SAID ABOUT RETURNING TO PEACE AND  
 DEMOCRACY, (4) NOTED THIS WAS A DIFFICULT TRANSITION AS A  
 CERTAIN LEVEL OF INTERNAL TENSION REMAINS, (5) NOTED THAT THIS  
 WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR VIDELA WHOSE LEADERSHIP WAS

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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SIGNIFICANT AND WHOSE OWN INTENTIONS WERE CLEARLY AND WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, AND (6) STRESSED THAT AS THE COUNTRY MOVES BACK TO THE RULE OF LAW IN THE NORMAL SENSE, PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT. MRS. DERIAN PRAISED THE PRESIDENTS' DIRECT APPEAL TO THE HIGH IDEALS FOR WHICH THE COUNTRY STANDS. SHE AGREED WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE LOOK TO THE MILITARY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND THEN WISH IT TO TURN POWER BACK. WITH THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS

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IN ARGENTINA, SHE STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND WAYS OF KEEPING THE GOOD WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

4. MRS. DERIAN ALSO NOTED THAT HER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN INTERESTING BUT A LITTLE FRUSTRATING. SHE NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO DISCUSS BUT SAID SHE BELIEVED THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE USEFUL AND SAID SHE WOULD BE BACK. SHE PARTED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.  
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| Document Information |                 |
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| DOC_NBR              | 1977BUENOS05889 |
| FILM                 | D770290-0318    |

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